

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A server which can communicate with a client and a device, comprising:

retrieval means for retrieving the device by  
5 comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with a retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device;

10 and

notifying means for notifying said client of a retrieval result of said retrieval means.

2. A server according to claim 1, further  
15 comprising:

receiving means for receiving the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client from  
20 said device; and

registering means for registering the information received by said receiving means into a storage.

3. A server according to claim 1, further  
25 comprising:

receiving means for receiving the device information of said device from said device;

first registering means for registering the device information received by said receiving means into a first storage; and

second registering means for registering the  
5 ability information of said device driver into a second storage.

4. A server according to claim 3, wherein the  
10 device information stored in said first storage and the ability information stored in said second storage are combined.

5. A server according to claim 1, further comprising:  
15 registering means for registering the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client into a storage.

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6. A server according to claim 1, wherein said retrieval condition includes a plurality of conditions,

said retrieval means compares the information  
25 obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with

each of said conditions, and

said notifying means notifies said client of an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among said plurality of conditions included in said retrieval condition.

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7. A server according to claim 1, wherein said device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

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8. A server according to claim 1, wherein the comparison by said retrieval means is executed with respect to a plurality of devices.

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9. A client which can communicate with a server, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting a device to said server;

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receiving means for receiving, from said server, a retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with a retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

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display control means for allowing a comparison result received by said receiving means to be displayed by a display.

5           10. A client according to claim 9, further comprising input means for inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by said retrieval item.

10           11. A client according to claim 9, wherein said input means can input a plurality of retrieval items.

15           12. A client according to claim 9, wherein said receiving means receives an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in said retrieval condition, and said display control means allows said adaptivity to be displayed by said display.

20           13. A client according to claim 10, wherein said retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

25           14. A device which can communicate with a server for transmitting a retrieval result to a client with respect to a retrieval condition which is sent from

said client and used for selecting said device,  
comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting information  
obtained by combining device information of said device  
5 and ability information of a device driver for said  
device which is executed by said client to said device.

15. A device according to claim 14, further  
comprising:

10 first storing means for storing the device  
information of said device;

second storing means for storing the ability  
information of said device driver; and

combining means for combining the device  
15 information stored in said first storing means and the  
ability information stored in said second storing  
means.

16. A device according to claim 14, further  
20 comprising inquiring means for inquiring of an external  
apparatus about the ability information of said device  
driver.

17. A device according to claim 14, wherein said  
25 device information is information regarding one of a  
duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an  
OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print

pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

18. A device according to claim 14, wherein said  
device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid  
5 machine, and a scanner.

19. A print system constructed by a device, a  
client, and a server, comprising:

first transfer means for transferring information  
10 obtained by combining device information of said device  
and ability information of a device driver for said  
device which is executed by said client to said server  
from said device;

second transfer means for transferring a retrieval  
15 condition for selecting said device to said server from  
said client;

retrieval means for retrieving the device by  
comparing the information obtained by combining the  
device information of said device and the ability  
20 information of the device driver for said device which  
is executed by said client with the retrieval condition  
which is received from said client and used for  
selecting said device; and

third transfer means for transferring a retrieval  
25 result by said retrieval means to said client from said  
server.

20. A print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, comprising:

first transfer means for transferring device  
information of said device to said server from said  
5 device;

second transfer means for transferring a retrieval  
condition for selecting said device to said server from  
said client;

retrieval means for retrieving the device by  
10 comparing information obtained by combining the device  
information which is transferred by said first transfer  
means and ability information of a device driver for  
said device which is executed by said client with the  
retrieval condition which is received from said client  
15 and used for selecting said device; and

third transfer means for transferring a retrieval  
result by said retrieval means to said client from said  
server.

20 21. An information processing method which is  
executed by a server which can communicate with a  
client and a device, comprising:

a retrieval step of retrieving the device by  
comparing information obtained by combining device  
25 information of said device and ability information of a  
device driver for said device which is executed by said  
client with a retrieval condition which is received

from said client and used for selecting said device;  
and

a notifying step of notifying said client of a  
retrieval result by said retrieval step.

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22. A method according to claim 21, further  
comprising:

a receiving step of receiving, from said device,  
the information obtained by combining the device  
10 information of said device and the ability information  
of the device driver for said device which is executed  
by said client; and

a registering step of registering the information  
received by said receiving step into a storage.

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23. A method according to claim 21, further  
comprising:

a receiving step of receiving the device  
information of said device from said device;  
20 a first registering step of registering the device  
information received by said receiving step into a  
first storage; and

a second registering step of registering the  
ability information of said device driver into a second  
25 storage.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the



device information stored in said first storage and the ability information stored in said second storage are combined.

5           25. A method according to claim 21, further comprising a registering step of registering the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client into a storage.

          26. A method according to claim 21, wherein said retrieval condition includes a plurality of conditions,

15           in said retrieval step, the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client is compared with each of said conditions, and

20           in said notifying step, said client is notified of an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among said plurality of conditions included in said retrieval condition.

25           27. A method according to claim 21, wherein said device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an

OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

28. A method according to claim 21, wherein the  
5 comparison by said retrieval step is executed with respect to a plurality of devices.

29. An information processing method which is  
executed by a client which can communicate with a  
10 server, comprising:

a transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval  
condition for selecting a device to said server;

a receiving step of receiving, from said server, a  
retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by  
15 comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device;  
20 and

a display control step of allowing a comparison result received by said receiving step to be displayed by a display.

30. A method according to claim 29, further  
25 comprising an input step of inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by said retrieval item.

31. A method according to claim 29, wherein in said input step, a plurality of retrieval items can be inputted.

5        32. A method according to claim 29, wherein  
in said receiving step, an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in said retrieval condition is received, and

10        in said display control step, said adaptivity is displayed by said display.

15        33. A method according to claim 30, wherein said retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

20        34. An information processing method which is executed by a device which can communicate with a server for transmitting a retrieval result to a client with respect to a retrieval condition which is sent from said client and used for selecting said device, comprising:

25        a transmitting step of transmitting information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said

device which is executed by said client to said device.

35. A method according to claim 34, further comprising

- 5           a combining step of combining said device information stored in a first storage and said ability information stored in a second storage.

- 10           36. A method according to claim 34, further comprising an inquiring step of inquiring of an external apparatus about the ability information of said device driver.

- 15           37. A method according to claim 34, wherein said device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

- 20           38. A method according to claim 34, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid machine, and a scanner.

- 25           39. An information processing method which is executed by a print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, comprising:

          a first transfer step of transferring information

obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said server from said device;

5           a second transfer step of transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from said client;

10           a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

15           a third transfer step of transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval step to said client from said server.

20           40. An information processing method which is executed by a print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, comprising:

          a first transfer step of transferring device information of said device to said server from said device;

25           a second transfer step of transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from said client;

a retrieval step of retrieving the device by  
comparing information obtained by combining the device  
information which is transferred by said first transfer  
step and ability information of a device driver for  
5 said device which is executed by said client with the  
retrieval condition which is received from said client  
and used for selecting said device; and

a third transfer step of transferring a retrieval  
result by said retrieval step to said client from said  
10 server.

41. An information processing program which is  
executed by a server which can communicate with a  
client and a device, wherein said program allows a  
15 computer to execute:

a retrieval step of retrieving the device by  
comparing information obtained by combining device  
information of said device and ability information of a  
device driver for said device which is executed by said  
20 client with a retrieval condition which is received  
from said client and used for selecting said device;  
and

a notifying step of notifying said client of a  
retrieval result by said retrieval step.  
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42. A program according to claim 41, wherein said  
program allows the computer to execute:

a receiving step of receiving, from said device,  
the information obtained by combining the device  
information of said device and the ability information  
of the device driver for said device which is executed  
5 by said client; and

a registering step of registering the information  
received by said receiving step into a storage.

43. A program according to claim 41, wherein said  
10 program allows the computer to execute:

a receiving step of receiving the device  
information of said device from said device;

a first registering step of registering the device  
information received by said receiving step into a  
15 first storage; and

a second registering step of registering the  
ability information of said device driver into a second  
storage.

44. A program according to claim 43, wherein the  
20 device information stored in said first storage and the  
ability information stored in said second storage are  
combined.

45. A program according to claim 41, wherein said  
25 program allows the computer to execute a registering  
step of registering the information obtained by

combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client into a storage.

5           46. A program according to claim 41, wherein  
            said retrieval condition includes a plurality of conditions,

            in said retrieval step, the information obtained  
            by combining the device information of said device and  
10           the ability information of the device driver for said  
            device which is executed by said client is compared  
            with each of said conditions, and

            in said notifying step, said client is notified of  
            an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions  
15           among said plurality of conditions included in said  
            retrieval condition.

            47. A program according to claim 41, wherein said  
            device information is information regarding one of a  
20           duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an  
            OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print  
            pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

            48. A program according to claim 41, wherein the  
25           comparison by said retrieval step is executed with  
            respect to a plurality of devices.



49. An information processing program which is executed by a client which can communicate with a server, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

5 a transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting a device to said server;

a receiving step of receiving, from said server, a retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device  
10 information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device;  
and

15 a display control step of allowing a comparison result received by said receiving step to be displayed by a display.

50. A program according to claim 49, wherein said  
20 program allows the computer to execute an input step of inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by said retrieval item.

51. A program according to claim 49, wherein in  
25 said input step, a plurality of retrieval items can be inputted.

52. A program according to claim 49, wherein  
in said receiving step, an adaptivity based on the  
number of adapted conditions among a plurality of  
conditions included in said retrieval condition is  
received, and

in said display control step, said adaptivity is  
displayed by said display.

53. A program according to claim 50, wherein said  
retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-  
up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion  
print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a  
paper size.

54. An information processing program which is  
executed by a device which can communicate with a  
server for transmitting a retrieval result to a client  
with respect to a retrieval condition which is sent  
from said client and used for selecting said device,  
wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

a transmitting step of transmitting information  
obtained by combining device information of said device  
and ability information of a device driver for said  
device which is executed by said client to said device.

55. A program according to claim 54, wherein said  
program allows the computer to execute

a combining step of combining said device information stored in a first storage and said ability information stored in a second storage.

5           56. A program according to claim 54, wherein said program allows the computer to execute an inquiring step of inquiring of an external apparatus about the ability information of said device driver.

10           57. A program according to claim 54, wherein said device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

15           58. A program according to claim 54, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid machine, and a scanner.

20           59. An information processing program which is executed by a print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

25           a first transfer step of transferring information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said server

from said device;

a second transfer step of transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from said client;

5 a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition  
10 which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

a third transfer step of transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval step to said client from said server.

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60. An information processing program which is executed by a print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

20 a first transfer step of transferring device information of said device to said server from said device;

a second transfer step of transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from  
25 said client;

a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining the device

information which is transferred by said first transfer step and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client  
5 and used for selecting said device; and

a third transfer step of transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval step to said client from said server.

10 61. A computer-readable memory medium which stores an information processing program that is executed by a server which can communicate with a client and a device, wherein said information processing program allows a computer to execute:

15 a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with a retrieval condition which is received  
20 from said client and used for selecting said device; and

a notifying step of notifying said client of a retrieval result by said retrieval step.

25 62. A medium according to claim 61, wherein said program allows the computer to execute:

a receiving step of receiving, from said device,

the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client; and

- 5           a registering step of registering the information received by said receiving step into a storage.

63. A medium according to claim 61, wherein said program allows the computer to execute:

- 10           a receiving step of receiving the device information of said device from said device;

          a first registering step of registering the device information received by said receiving step into a first storage; and

- 15           a second registering step of registering the ability information of said device driver into a second storage.

64. A medium according to claim 63, wherein the  
20   device information stored in said first storage and the ability information stored in said second storage are combined.

65. A medium according to claim 61, wherein said  
25   program allows the computer to execute a registering step of registering the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the

ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client into a storage.

5           66. A medium according to claim 61, wherein  
said retrieval condition includes a plurality of conditions,

10           in said retrieval step, the information obtained  
by combining the device information of said device and  
the ability information of the device driver for said  
device which is executed by said client is compared  
with each of said conditions, and

15           in said notifying step, said client is notified of  
an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions  
among said plurality of conditions included in said  
retrieval condition.

20           67. A medium according to claim 61, wherein said  
device information is information regarding one of a  
duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an  
OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print  
pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

25           68. A medium according to claim 61, wherein the  
comparison by said retrieval step is executed with  
respect to a plurality of devices.

69. A computer-readable memory medium which stores

an information processing program that is executed by a client which can communicate with a server, wherein said information processing program allows a computer to execute:

5           a transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting a device to said server;

          a receiving step of receiving, from said server, a retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device  
10       information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device;  
          and

15       a display control step of allowing a comparison result received by said receiving step to be displayed by a display.

70. A medium according to claim 69, wherein said  
20       program allows the computer to execute an input step of inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by said retrieval item.

71. A medium according to claim 69, wherein a  
25       plurality of retrieval items can be inputted.

72. A medium according to claim 69, wherein



in said receiving step, an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in said retrieval condition is received, and

5 in said display control step, said adaptivity is displayed by said display.

73. A medium according to claim 70, wherein said  
10 retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.